LIBRARY

URBAN DISTRICT OF WHITTLESEY

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1951

Chairman of the Council

Mr. C. A. Jacobs, J.P.

Vice-Chairman

Mr. T. W. Anthony

Public Health Committee

Chairman:

Mr. T. W. Anthony

Members:

Mr.J.W.Coomber
Mr.C.Dale
Mr.F.J.Fletcher
Mr.W.Freeman
Mr.F.H.Newman
Mr.T.E.Richardson
Mr.E.W.Rose
Mr.A.B.Saunders
Mrs.I.M.Turner

Officers of the Whittlesey Urban District Council

Medical Officer of Health:

D. C. Logan, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

W. Scott M.R.San.I. M.S.I.A.

Meat Inspector:

J.H.Poles, M.R.C.V.S.

Offices of the Urban District Council:

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
6, Delph Street,
WHITTLESEY.

Telephone No. Whittlesey 3144

To: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr.Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith my Annual Report of the health of this District, together with the report of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr.W.Scott. I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the hard and devoted work which the Sanitary Inspector has carried out during the year. He has been a most loyal and co-operative colleague.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

D. C. LOGAN

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	23,362
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,538
Rateable Value (at 31.12.51)	£ 29,231
Product of 1d. rate (at 31.3.51)	£114.8s.6d.
Population (Registrar General's figures)	8,567

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	74	78	152
Illegitimate	1	6	7
Total:	75	84	159

Live Birth Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 estimated population 18.6
England and Wales - per 1,000 estimated population 15.5

STILLBIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total:	2	1	3

Stillbirth Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 estimated population 0.35
England and Wales - per 1,000 estimated population 0.36

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total:	3	1	4

Infant Mortality Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 Live Births 25.2
England and Wales - per 1,000 Live Births 29.6

The Infant Mortality Rate (25.2), although more favourable than the figure for the Country as a whole (29.6), is not quite as good as last year (18.7), which was an exceptionally good year. None of the four deaths which occurred were preventable, according to the present state of medical knowledge. One death was due to extreme prematurity, and the other three to congenital abnormalities incompatible with survival.

DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)

Male	Female	Total
55	38	93

Death Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 estimated population 10.86

England and Wales - per 1,000 estimated population 12.5

Causes of Death in the Whittlesey Urban District, as supplied by the Registrar General for 1951:-

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	3
Coronary disease, angina	4	2
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
Other Heart disease	14	14
Other circulatory disease	1	1
Influenza	-	2
Pneumonia	2	1
Bronchitis	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2
Congenital malformations	5	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	3
Motor Vehicle accidents	-	-
All other accidents	1	2
Suicide	-	-
Total:	55	38

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during 1951:-

Pneumonia	20
Scarlet Fever	31
Measles	107
Whooping Cough	72
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	9
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	3
Diphtheria	1
Poliomyelitis	1
Infective Hepatitis	33
Total:	277

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Immunisation against Diphtheria has been an established practice for over ten years, and the few cases of this disease occurring today is evidence of the efficacy of this procedure. More recently immunisation against Whooping Cough has been carried out, and the usual practice is now to immunise against both Diphtheria and Whooping Cough at the same time. Too many parents however, either through ignorance or prejudice, fail to have their children immunised, and it is to be feared, if this state continues, that there will be an increase in the number of Diphtheria cases. Every effort must be made to have all children immunised, preferably against both Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

TUBERCULOSIS

Nine new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were reported during the year, three less than last year. Two deaths due to this disease were registered. Most of the cases now being reported are caught at an early stage, and with the new drugs and new methods of treatment, good results are being recorded, but the duration of invalidism is still long.

The following table gives details of Infectious Diseases notified during 1951:-

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
1951

Age	Pneumonia		Scarlet Fever		Measles		Whooping Cough		Tuberculosis		Diphtheria		Poliomyelitis		Infective Hepatitis	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 Year					1		2	4								
1 – 5 Yrs.	1	1	5		23	38	19	28		1					1	1
5 – 10 "	4	2	16	7	22	20	4	12	2	1					10	8
10 – 15 "		1		2	1		1	2							3	2
15 – 25 "		1		1					1						3	1
25 – 35 "	1					1				2	1				1	
35 – 50 "		2				1							1			1
50 – 65 "	3	1							2							
Over 65 "	2	1							2						1	1
TOTAL:	11	9	21	10	47	60	26	46	7	4	1	–	1	–	19	14

GENERAL

During the year the Fair has visited the Town several times, and has occupied the Market Place on each occasion, personnel being accommodated in Caravans in the Post Office ground in Station Road. The Fair has occupied this site for as long as the oldest inhabitant can remember, and its presence there has come to be regarded as almost inevitable. In recent times, other forms of entertainment, the cinema, radio and television have become available, and so the inconvenience of the Fair in the centre of the Town is regarded with less tolerance. The noise continuing till a late hour at night is a great nuisance to the majority of residents in the vicinity.

A site on the outskirts of the Town should be provided.

HOUSING

Number of Houses erected during 1951:-

1.	By Local Authority	-	34
2.	By Private Enterprise	-	5
		Total:	39

The small number of new Local Authority houses being erected annually in the area, makes it imperative that the houses should be allocated to the persons in most needy circumstances. During the year a new system of allotting points to applicants for Council Houses was adopted by the Council on the recommendation of the Sanitary Inspector, after he had made a detailed inspection of the conditions under which applicants were living. An important factor is that applicants with tuberculosis in the family are given absolute priority, and it is gratifying to record that three families in this category were allocated modern houses. It is to be regretted that no attempt has as yet been made to deal with houses included in Clearance Orders made in 1938. There are no less than 96 such houses in the area, constituting a stumbling block to fresh slum clearance schemes. The position is being further complicated by certain owners selling vacated condemned h houses to persons desperate for accommodation.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There were three Common Lodging Houses registered at the beginning of the year.

The Local Inspector of Police is the lodging house Inspector for this area, and in his monthly reports to the Council he expressed satisfaction with the condition of these premises.

PRIVY CONVERSION

During the year a house to house inspection was made in the town to ascertain the exact number of houses without water closets. The result was as follows:-

Families using	dry closets	119
" "	pail closets	31
" "	chemical closets	3

These figures do not include movable dwellings or condemned property.

At the conclusion of the survey informal representation was made to every owner concerned requesting that water closets be provided in view of the existing unsatisfactory accommodation, and I hope to be able to record good results in the next annual report.

SEWERAGE

In June a new project was commenced to link up the villages of Coates and Eastrea with Whittlesey's sewerage scheme.

It is to be hoped that full advantage will be taken of this new sewer when the work is completed.

CESSPOOL, PRIVY VAULT AND PAIL CLOSET EMPTYING

This is done by a private contractor. Many complaints were received throughout the year of delay in dealing with this work.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse collection in the town of Whittlesey and the surrounding districts is carried out by a solitary vehicle - there being approximately 2,400 houses visited. The staff consists of one driver and three loaders. The service has been most unsatisfactory. Stock was taken of the position during the year, and it was decided to attempt an improvement of the situation. The three loaders were giving most unsatisfactory service, two of them being over 50 years of age, and after several warnings were dismissed and replaced by younger men. Metal trolley bin carriers were introduced for use in the built up parts of the district. A house to house inspection was made to determine the condition of the receptacles in use for the storage of household refuse. One hundred and thirty-five informal notices and forty-six Statutory Notices were served, requiring the provision of proper dustbins. Progress charts were devised indicating the names of the streets, the number of houses and the number of bins in each street, the date of emptying and the number of times emptied during each month.

The result of all this was a greatly improved service and 70% of the houses enjoyed a constant weekly collection for the first time. Highly satisfactory as this is, there is no room for complacency. In my opinion the widely scattered nature of the population in the area calls for a staff of six men and two vehicles.

The disposal of refuse takes place at New Road, Whittlesey, the method being controlled tipping. One complaint was received from a nearby householder that flies were invading her house from the tip. This was attended to satisfactorily.

DEFECTS AND NUISANCES REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR

Number of Informal Notices served during the year to provide Dustbins	135
Number of Informal Notices served during the year to abate nuisances	25
Number of Informal Notices served during the year to remedy housing defects	19

NUMBER OF STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

(1)	Under Section 75, Public Health Act 1936 (Dustbin Provision)	46
(2)	Under Section 269 (3) Public Health Act 1936 (Moveable Dwellings)	2
(3)	Under Section 83 (1) Public Health Act 1936 (Filthy and Verminous premises)	1

WATER SUPPLY

During the year 30 samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination, and two for chemical. The results obtained were satisfactory.

Water is obtained from Peterborough, and to boost a declining pressure, a reservoir of capacity 350,000 gallons was completed in the latter part of the year.

The results of the chemical analysis and a copy of a bacteriological analysis taken at random are re-produced below:-

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

(1) "Sample of Water labelled "No. 1/51 Standpipe in rear of 9, Delph, Whittlesey", received on the 24th April 1951 from The Sanitary Inspector, Whittlesey Urban District Council."

Physical Characters	-	Good
Reaction	-	pH 7.2

The sample contained:-	parts per 100,000
Chlorine	2.9
Ammonia (Free and Saline)	absent
Ammonia (Albuminoid)	0.0026
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37° C	0.0429
Nitrates	absent
Nitrites	absent
Poisonous Metals	absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls.
Number of microorganisms per ml developing on Agar at 37° C - Nil
Number of microorganisms per ml developing on Agar at 21° C - Nil

MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION OF DEPOSIT

None

TOTAL HARDNESS: 17.16 degrees (grains per gallon)

INFERENCE

The results obtained on the analysis of this sample do not show any evidences of pollution with harmful organic or inorganic matter.

I am of opinion that this water is fit for drinking purposes.

30th April, 1951. (Signed) S.Greenburgh (Analyst)

"PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE"

WATER BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT

Authority or Sender: Whittlesey U.D.C. Mr.W.Scott.

Lab: Ref: No. P.H.1581

Nature of Sample: Water taken from Whittlesey Junior Mixed School tap.

Date & Hour of Collection: 9.10.51 11 a.m.

Date & Hour of Arrival: 9.10.51

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C - 0 per 100 ml.

This water is satisfactory.

Date: 12.10.51 (Signed) C.B.Gilmore

MILK AND DAIRIES

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, we have on our Register:-

2 Distributors

2 Dairies

1 Distributor holding a "Dealers" Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk.

1 Distributor holding "Supplementary" Licences to sell "Pasteurised" and "Sterilised" Milk.

1 Distributor holding a "Supplementary" Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested milk.

Thirty samples of milk were submitted to the analyst at Peterborough Memorial Hospital, one only being considered unsatisfactory.

Three specimens of ungraded milk were also submitted for the biological test for tubercle. The tests all proved negative.

FOOD INSPECTION

In no case was it found necessary to make any seizure of diseased or unsound food. The main work in this department was the issue of certificates of unsound food-stuffs mostly blown and rusted cans, voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers.

SLAUGHTERING AND MEAT INSPECTION

The slaughtering for the town is carried out at Peterborough. Meat is inspected in the shops in the district by Mr.J.H.Poles.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

Inspections made (under the Factories Act) for 1951

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections, 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	24	17	Nil	Nil
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced	46	21	5	Nil
Other Premises	4	4	Nil	Nil
TOTAL:	74	42	5	Nil

Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which Defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Closet Unsuitable or Defective	3	2	1	1	Nil
TOTAL:	5	4	1	1	Nil